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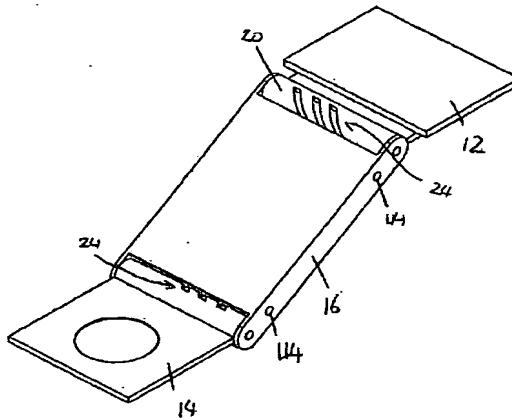
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(57) Abstract: The present invention is related to a means for detecting external threats by the use of methods and apparatuses for the wide area detection of chemical, radiological or biological threats using modified personal wireless devices (10) combined with new advanced micro and nonosensor technologies. A cost effective method is provided for wide area surveillance of a potential terrorist or personal threat. Personal electronic devices (10) such as mobile phones, PDAs or watches, in combination with new microsensor technologies described herein, can be used as a new type of platform detection technology for wide area surveillance of major threats. A "Homeland Security" chip is further provided which combines the elements of geo-location, remote wireless communications and sensing into a single chip. The personal electronic devices (10) can be further equipped for detecting various medically related threats. Similarly modified personal devices can be used to detect external threats that are person-specific.